



Flathead Conservation District  
133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT 59901  
www.flatheadcd.org 406-752-4220

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### **CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE**

Chair Ronald Buentemeier called the April 23, 2018, Business meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the conference room.

### **Board members present:**

Ronald Buentemeier, Chairman; Pete Woll, Vice Chairman; Dean Sirucek, Secretary/Treasurer; Mark Siderius, Supervisor; Verdell Jackson, Supervisor; Lori Curtis, Supervisor, being a quorum of the Board.

**Board members absent:** John Ellis, Supervisor. Absence is excused.

Also in attendance were: Valerie Kurth, Hailey Graf and Ginger Kauffman, FCD staff; Greg & Jana Price; Clifford Kipp, Montana Conservation Corps; Carolyn Cichowski; Dave Reynolds; Pat Walsh; Heidi Shepherd; Wayne Bouley; John Mack; Ovila Byrd, Flathead County; Samantha Tappenbeck, SWCDM.

### **MINUTES**

Mark Siderius motioned "to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2018, meeting as presented." Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Mail: National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) 2017 Annual Report.
2. Email: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks announces online certified boater training for Tiber and Canyon Ferry Reservoirs at <http://cleandraindry.mt.gov> or call 406-444-2440.
3. Email: MACD is seeking to hire an Executive Director [www.macdnet.org](http://www.macdnet.org) Complete applications must be submitted to [hire@macdnet.org](mailto:hire@macdnet.org) by May 1<sup>st</sup>, 5:00 P.M. Contact Ann McCauley, Interim Executive Director 406-443-5711.
4. Email: Upcoming webinar on [Bumble Bee Ecology and Conservation](http://www.forestrywebinars.net/webinars/bumble-bee-ecology-and-conservation). <http://www.forestrywebinars.net/webinars/bumble-bee-ecology-and-conservation> Contact Aaron Clausen, Biologist, Pheasants Forever, USDA Bozeman, (406) 587-6937 [aclausen@pheasantsforever.org](mailto:aclausen@pheasantsforever.org)
5. Email: Flathead Lakers *River to Lake News* [www.FlatheadRivertoLake.org](http://www.FlatheadRivertoLake.org)
6. Email: ***US Fish & Wildlife Service public meeting on wildlife refuge management plans*** – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is holding public scoping meetings on June 6 at the Red Lion Ridgewater Inn in Polson, and June 7 at the Kalispell Public Library to discuss the development of new management plans for the Bison Range Complex, which includes the Flathead Lake Waterfowl Production



- Area, Blasdel National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Lost Trail NWR, the Bison Range, and the Ninepipe and Pablo NWR. Public comments submitted last September can be found under '[Documents](#),' including Flathead Lakers comments (p. 25) and Flathead Audubon comments (p.31). For additional information visit [National Bison Range planning website \(www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/refuges/nbrp.php\)](http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/refuges/nbrp.php) or call 644-2211.
7. Email: **North Shore Boat Tour** - Join Flathead River to Lake Initiative partners the evening of June 28 aboard the Far West tour boat to celebrate conservation success and learn about projects on the North Shore and the Flathead River. Tickets may be purchased for \$50 by contacting the Flathead Lakers at 883-1341 or Flathead Land Trust at 752-8293.
  8. Email: **Introduction to Conservation Easements for Realtors**  
Flathead Land Trust will conduct a seminar on conservation easements for realtors on Thursday, April 12, 9:30 to noon at Northwest Montana Association of Realtors' classroom, 110 Cooperative Way, Kalispell. The workshop will help realtors communicate to their clients the implications of buying a property with a conservation easement. For more information and to register visit the [NMAR website](#) or call the Flathead Land Trust at 752-8293.
  9. Email: Montana DEQ is looking for a Wetland Field Tech for 2018 who will focus on wetland monitoring and assessment in Southwest Montana! This position is temporary and expected to work from mid-May through early fall. To apply submit your resume and cover letter through the State of Montana Careers site. Position Title: Environmental Field Technician - 18140733  
<https://mtstatejobs.taleo.net/careersection/200/jobdetail.ftl?job=18140733&tz=G MT-06%3A00>
  10. Email: National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) publications, *eResource, Forestry Notes, Conservation Clips* <http://www.nacdnet.org>
  11. Email: Montana Storm Water Conference, May 1-4, Bozeman  
[www.mtstormwaterconference.org](http://www.mtstormwaterconference.org). Contact Christopher Romankiewicz, DEQ, (406) 475-2138 [cromankiewicz@mt.gov](mailto:cromankiewicz@mt.gov)
  12. Email: Clark Fork & Kootenai River Basins Council 2018 Annual Meeting April 16-17, 2018, University of Montana, University Center, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor. Facilitated by Montana Watershed Coordination Council <https://mtwatersheds.org>
  13. Email: Range Forum 9-10, Big Horn Resort, Billings MT. Register on line at <https://www.eventbrite.com> RSVP by April 27, 2018. Registration \$50.00 for both days or \$30/day. Contact Teresa at Judith Basin CD, 406-566-2133, [Teresa.wilhelms@mt.usda.gov](mailto:Teresa.wilhelms@mt.usda.gov)
  14. Email: National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) publications *Conservation Clips* [www.nacdnet.org](http://www.nacdnet.org)
  15. Email: Whitefish Planning Board meeting, April 19, 2018, 6:00 P.M., Whitefish City Council Chambers. <http://www.cityofwhitefish.org>
  16. Email: Judith Basin County Range School, May 24, Geyser Community Hall, Geyser, MT. Contact Judith Basin CD 406-566-2311 Ext 107.
  17. Email: Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana (SWCDM) and Montana Association of Conservation District (MACD) newsletter *The Montana Conservationist* [www.swcdm.org](http://www.swcdm.org) OR [www.macdnet.org](http://www.macdnet.org)
  18. Email: 2018 Montana Energy Summit, May 30-31, 2018, Billings Hotel & Convention



- Center, Billings, MT, <http://www.mtenergysummit.com>
19. Email: Judith Basin Conservation District announces, Range Forum, May 9-10, Big Horn Resort, Billings, MT. Register by April 27, <https://www.eventbrite.com>  
Contact Teresa 406-566-2311, Ext .107, [Teresa.wilhelms@mt.usda.gov](mailto:Teresa.wilhelms@mt.usda.gov)
  20. Email: Riparian Grazing Workshops to be held across the state, June 26-28. Visit [www.swcdm.org](http://www.swcdm.org) for more information or to register
  21. Email: Yellow Stone CD announces Rangeland Restoration Symposium, May 8, Big Horn Resort, Billings. Contact 406-247-4220, [livie@mt.gov](mailto:livie@mt.gov)

### **FINANCIAL**

The following bills were reviewed:

1. Byte Savvy \$180.00
2. CenturyLink \$266.60
3. Insty Prints of Kalispell \$49.95
4. MSU Bozeman \$2000.00
5. Mountain States Leasing Kalispell \$1545.56
6. SWCDM \$25.00
7. University of Note Dame \$2000.00
8. VISA \$599.00

Mark Siderius motioned “to approve the bills as presented.” Verdell Jackson seconded.  
Motion carried unanimously.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one was present to comment on items not listed on the agenda.

**Introduction to Montana Conservation Corps (MCC):** Clifford Kipp, MCC Regional Supervisor, spoke to the board about MCC and how they can be a resource to the Flathead CD both now and in the future. He explained that MCC has expanded significantly in recent years, most of their crew members are AmeriCorps participants. He noted MCC is a place for young people to gain skills in the natural resource fields while serving the best interest of the common good. MCC wants to be responsive to resources agencies and private landowners; however, they are not in competition with local businesses. MCC requests that interested partners contact them as early as possible in the season so they can plan, but they are somewhat flexible and it is always worth calling to check crew availability. They require partners pay a portion of the fee for service, but they could seek out partnerships to help with funding if needed. MCC carries insurance and is on a list of approved contractors. Clifford answered supervisors’ questions regarding programs and crew availability.

**Cost-Share Application:** Valerie Kurth introduced Carolyn Cichowski. Carolyn explained that she has owned the 50-acre property since 1976, and that weeds have gotten worse over recent years because of increasing development. Valerie stated the bid is from Western Weed Control for a total cost of \$3200. Flathead CD share would be \$2400. Mark Siderius motioned “to approve the cost-share for the Flathead CD portion of \$2400.” Lori Curtis seconded.  
Motion carried unanimously.



**Trumbull Creek Report Presentation:** Troy Benn, RESPEC Project Engineer, and Mike Rotar, Project Manager, gave a presentation via Skype about their draft assessment of Trumbull Creek hydrology. Troy stated Flathead CD was awarded an RRGL planning grant to assess the creek in the project area, which extended from approximately Conn Rd. to Birch Grove Rd. Site visits and field assessments were carried out March 28-29. A hydraulic model was done using Lidar data; they also took field measurements of culverts and stream crossings related to flooding issues on Trumbull Creek. Three general focus areas were identified: Birch Grove Road, Trumbull Creek Road to Tetrault Road, and Hodgson Road to Conn Road. Troy reviewed the field assessment, evaluated scenarios, possible solutions and preliminary costs estimates. He noted permitting would be an additional cost, which was not included in the estimates as permitting is specific to design.

Subsequent discussion included water flow from Glacier Horse Ranch south, larger culverts, flooding issues between Olympia Way and Tetrault Road, culverts near the airport, effects of climate change, effects due to changes in flood stage on Flathead River, ground- and surface-water interactions, and cooperative efforts between landowners, the airport and Flathead County. The board thanked Troy and Mike for the presentation. Valerie Kurth noted this is a draft report, hard copies will be mailed when the report is finalized.

Dean Sirucek motioned “to have Valerie Kurth go forward for an RRGL grant application for a portion of the Trumbull Creek project.” Mark Siderius seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### **310's**

**Bouley, FL2018014, Flathead River, bank stabilization/stairs:** Pete Woll reported the onsite inspection was held April 18<sup>th</sup>. Water is coming up. The landowner will do work with a small excavator and will place rock to help wave action along an approximately 100' long section. They will also replace old wooden steps with rock steps. They have a couple trees leaning over the bank that will be removed, but they will leave the root wads. Pete read the Review Considerations in the Team Member Report. Pete Woll motioned “to approve the application with modifications as listed in the Team Member Report. The 15-day waiting period is waived with concurrence by FWP.” Lori Curtis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Oursland, FL2018011, Flathead River, dock/boat lift:** Pete Woll reported the onsite inspection was held April 10<sup>th</sup>. The landowner wants to extend the dock to give 5' depth at end of the dock on Flathead River and put in a lift station. Posts will be by driven in by hand. The main dock was approved in 2015. Pete read the Review Considerations in the Team Member Report. Pete Woll motioned “to approve the application as proposed. The 15-day waiting period is waived with concurrence by FWP.” Lori Curtis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.



## **NEW BUSINESS**

**GIS Audit:** Ginger Kauffman reported the Flathead County Finance office had sent the 2018 Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Audit to the district. The audit includes new assessor numbers and those that are inactive, which staff reviewed to ensure the district is receiving correct tax revenues. Mark Sideirus motioned “to approve the 2018 GIS Audit.” Pete Woll seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Monthly Budget Report:** The March Monthly Budget Report was reviewed with the board. Lori Curtis motioned “to approve the March Monthly Budget Report.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**City of Whitefish Letter of Support:** Valerie Kurth reported a request for a letter of support was received from the City of Whitefish for two of their grant applications: Treasure State Endowment Program and the Renewable Resources Grant & Loan Program. Lori Curtis noted the importance of the grants to get work done on the City’s Wastewater Treatment Plant. Dean Sirucek motioned “to forward a letter of support for Whitefish to upgrade the water treatment system.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**MACD Goals & Draft Strategic Plan:** Pete Woll stated if the Flathead CD board has any comments on the draft MACD Goals and Strategic Plan to contact him and he will forward them to MACD. It was noted that dues are included in the plan.

## **REPORTS**

**Flathead CD Staff:** Valerie Kurth and Hailey Graf reported:

### ***District Office and Outreach***

1. Hailey Graf started working as the Assistant Conservationist on April 16<sup>th</sup>. She is getting orientated to our programs and operations and also preparing for several upcoming educational events. Welcome Hailey!
2. Advertisements: Ginger Kauffman coordinated the advertisements for April, which included one on sandbagging and one on the cost-share program. Hailey is coordinating the May ads which will include one on the Cost-Share program (specific to cows in streams) and one on the Educator Grant program.
3. Valerie helped coordinate the Area V Supervisor Forum, which was held in Polson on March 29<sup>th</sup>.

### ***310-related***

Valerie continues to coordinate 310-related communication among DNRC, FWP, DEQ, Don MacIntyre (DNRC), Caitlin Overland (Deputy County Attorney), and the legal representatives involved in the judicial review for Stalowy.

*Valerie updated the board on the Walter and Stalowy 310 issues.*

### ***On-the-Ground Projects***

**Trumbull Creek** – The consultants from RESPEC, Troy Benn and Libby Ellwood, visited the Flathead and did a comprehensive field survey on March 28-29<sup>th</sup>. Valerie coordinated their



field schedule, which included visits to seven privately-held properties and Glacier Park International Airport. In addition, they assessed all of the publically-accessible road crossings. Since then, Troy has drafted the technical report, and Valerie submitted the quarterly grant report to DNRC.

### ***Landowner Programs***

Valerie met with one new landowner about a weed control project, and she visited the site with Dean Sirucek in early April. She has received several inquiries and requests for information about the program. Valerie and Hailey helped with seedling delivery on April 19<sup>th</sup>. FCD processed nine seedling orders this year.

### ***Education and Outreach***

Scholarships - Ginger handled the communications for the college scholarships, including notification of the students and guidance counselors and scheduling of supervisors at the different high school awards ceremonies.

Rolling Rivers - Valerie is working with teachers at three different schools who want to schedule Rolling Rivers Trailer demonstrations later this spring.

Forestry Expo - Valerie helped hang posters for Forestry Expo and has been recruiting additional volunteers for FCD's riparian station.

Website/social media - Hailey wrote three new posts about current programs, including the seedling, cost-share, and education grant programs. These posts were disseminated through both the website and the Facebook page. She also updated the Facebook page to increase the number of viewers and the links to our website and the websites of our partners. So far, the posts and updates have had positive responses from the public and have created additional traffic to our website. She has also added search engine tags to the website content to make it easier for Google to find our website when someone is searching for similar topics.

Samantha Tappenbeck, Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana (SWCDM) reported: **MACD is in search of a new Executive Director** [www.macdnet.org](http://www.macdnet.org)

### **Attended 2018 annual meeting: Clark Fork / Kootenai River Basins Council**

- April 16-17 in Missoula
- Day one: focus on work group projects, reports; sessions to discuss how work groups can provide benefits to local watershed groups
  - Presentation with Lincoln CD on the Mud Creek Restoration Project - recipient of Natural Systems/Water Availability Work Group 2018 Outstanding Water Quality/Quantity Project Awards
- Day two: breakout sessions -
  - Discussion of State & Basin Water Plans, Integrated Water Quality Report, organizations and role in water and watershed management
  - AIS panel on first year activities and 2018 expectations
- Day two: organization business - executive committee elections, work plan approval; work plan will be available on the website





**Assisted with “Mussel Walk” field trip event:**

- Organized by: Confederates Salish & Kootenai Tribes, Flathead Lakers, Flathead Lake Biological Station, and the Boys & Girls Club
- 130 middle school students
- Educational event on aquatic invasive species: mussel identification, detection, prevention, Inspection

**NOW OPEN: spring round of Ranching for Rivers**

- Cost-share program (50%) available to landowners to voluntarily construct grazing infrastructure (fences, hardened crossings, water gaps, offsite watering tanks and pipeline, etc.) and enable them to better manage the streams and riparian resources on their land
- Assistance available from certified grazing plan developer
- Projects must be located in an area with a DEQ-accepted Watershed Restoration Plan (assistance available to help determine if you qualify)
- Applications due 6/15/18

**Riparian Grazing Workshops:**

June 26, Thompson Falls; June 27, Helena; June 28, Deer Lodge. Pre-registration \$15/\$20 at the door. Visit [www.swcdm.org](http://www.swcdm.org) for more information and to register.

**Natural Resources & Conservation Service (NRCS):** No report.

**Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD):** Pete Woll reported that during the MACD Executive Board call today the east side districts were commenting on 310 proposed changes. President Mark Suta told board members they need to sit in on a Flathead 310-meeting because the east side doesn't really have to deal with 310's compared to the west side.

**Flathead County Planning Board (FCPB):** No report.

**Whitefish City Planning Board (WCPB):** No report.

**Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC3):** Lori Curtis reported she had attended the CFKRB annual meeting and presented on behalf of conservation districts and UC3 on the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) panel. The Education and Outreach Planning Committee will submit information to the Commission on May 10<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting is scheduled for June 14 at Flathead Lake Biological Station. Lori stated the AIS program is far more organized than before, but this is an enormous problem. They are doing as much as there is funding for. It was noted that a station in Anaconda just recently found a boat from Ohio with mussels.

**Haskill Basin Watershed Council (HBWC):** Valerie Kurth reported the last meeting was cancelled and has not been rescheduled.



**Flathead Basin Commission (FBC):** Dean Sirucek reported the next meeting will be this Wednesday at the Pablo Trial Chambers. Meeting items will include reorganization, restructure and review of the strategic plan.

**Flathead River Commission (FRC):** Mark Siderius reported the next meeting is scheduled for May 7<sup>th</sup>. The Flood Forecasting meeting is April 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Clark Fork & Kootenai River Basins Council (CFKRBC):** Verdell Jackson reported he attended the annual meeting which included watershed projects, discussion regarding the state water plan and support for the CFKRBC.

#### **MATTERS OF THE BOARD/STAFF**

- **MACD Dues Letter:** MACD accepted the Flathead CD dues payment and approved the request for full voting privileges.
- **MACD Executive Director** application submittal deadline is this Friday.
- **Proposed changes to the 310 application and instruction.** The 310 committee will meet to work on changes. Valerie Kurth and Pete Woll will attend. Valerie asked supervisors to contact her with any comments.
- **Team Member Reports (TMR's):** Valerie will contact Caitlin Overland, Flathead County Attorney's office, regarding Review Considerations in the TMR's.

The next 310 meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 14, 2018, 7:00 P.M. in the conference room of the USDA building at 133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT.

Adjournment: Mark Siderius motioned "to adjourn." Pete Woll seconded. Motion carried unanimously. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:47 P.M.

Submitted By:

Ginger Kauffman, Administrator, and Valerie Kurth, Resource Conservationist

Minutes approved by FCD Board motion made on:

<u>5/14/2018</u>	<u>Ronald Buentemeier</u>	<u>Chair</u>
(Date)	(Signature)	(Title – Chair etc.)

